(c) Yes, the General Body of the Society approved the acquisition of the assets of Shahjahanpur plant of M/s. OCFL through a joint venture with M/s. Shyam, in its Special General Meeting held on 24.11.2005. Both the Managing Director and Chairman were not present at the AGM.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) KRIBHCO has not obtained any Government permission.

Medicines at reasonable prices

2291. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism in place to regulate/control the prices of various categories of medicines;

(b) the details for each category thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to ensure that the selling price of a medicine is not exorbitant when compared with its intrinsic value; and

(d) how Government propose to ensure that the medicines which are to be taken life long are priced reasonably and the manufacturers/ traders do not indulge in undue profiteering?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The objectives of the Pharmaceutical Policy include, *inter alia* ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption.

As per the present Pharma Pricing Policy, the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market

competition, product innovation, product quality etc., The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

A Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 has been prepared. The Policy proposes, *inter alia*, limits for trade margin on medicines. Special attention is being given to the prices of medicines, which are required on a life long basis so as to make their prices reasonable. After the finalization of the Cabinet note on the Policy, it would be placed before the Cabinet for approval.

NIPER in Gujarat

2292. SHRI SURYAKANTBHAI ACHARYA:
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal to the Central Government for setting up an institution like National Institute for Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) near Ahmedabad and the Central Government have decided in principle, to set up such an institute or its branch in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any time-bound programme has been framed for setting up such an institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Presently there is an institute named National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) located at Mohali, Punjab. NIPER has been set up by an Act of Parliament on 26.6.1998. It is the first National level institute of its kind in India in the field of pharmaceutical sciences. It provides Doctoral and PG degree courses in the field of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Realising the need for setting up of more NIPER like institutes in India a committee consisting of experts from NIPER was constituted by